



TOWN OF GRANBY Connecticut

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GRANBY, CONNECTICUT 06033-2102

TESTIMONY ON Raised Bill No. 333 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Energy and Technology Committee Public Hearing March 15, 2012
Submitted by John E. Adams, First Selectman, Town of Granby

As First Selectman of the Town of Granby, Vice Chairman of the Capital Region Council of Governments, a member of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority Mid Connecticut Project and as a member of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority, I support the intent of Raised Bill No. 333 in restructuring the CRRA Board of Directors.

The organizations I represent have long believed that restructuring the CRRA Board of Directors to include more municipal representation can only improve the transparency, responsiveness and cost effective delivery of solid waste services to its member towns and cities. We believe that Raised Bill No. 333 goes a long way to improving municipal representation by creating a Board of municipal representatives that are both appointed by the Governor and Legislative Leadership and elected by its member municipalities. As I sit around a table of Mayors and First Selectmen, I see a diverse group of talents with expertise in engineering, sciences, management, finance and many other areas that would benefit CRRA.

I would suggest three modifications to this bill. First, the various municipal groups that I represent have recognized the need for the City of Hartford to have a permanent seat on the Board. They are the host community and it is important for the city to be involved in decisions that have the potential to directly impact their community. I support the designation of one of the over 30,000 population seats for a designee of the Mayor of Hartford.

Second, we support removing the restriction on the number of Board members that may originate from Mid-Connecticut Project towns. The seats should be open to all member municipalities that have contractual relationships with CRRA, regardless of their geographic location.

Finally, we recognize that the implementation of this bill on July 1, 2012 represents a potential problem. With the need to make new Gubernatorial and Legislative appointments and the requirement for the member towns to elect representatives, a more doable implementation date is October 1, 2012.

I urge the legislature to adopt these revisions and vote favorably on this bill. It is consistent with the desires of the overwhelming number of participating towns. Thank you for your help in improving the management and oversight of this municipally based organization.